GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3353
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
INCRESE IN PRICE OF GROUNDNUT AND MUSTARD OIL
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of additional burden on the consumer as the wholesale prices of groundnut and mustard oil have shown a marked increase in the market;

(b) if so, the extent to which the prices of these commodities have gone up; and

(c) the steps, the Government have taken to control the prices of these commodities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : There has been no increase in the wholesale prices of groundnut and mustard oil thereof after the Union Budget, as may be observed from the following table :-

(Figures in Rs/Qt)

Year-2000	Groundnut Oil	Mustard Oil
Jan-I	Week 3808	3210
Jan-II	Week 3794	3220
Jan-III	Week 3713	3075
Jan-IV	Week 3743	2863
Feb-I	Week 3675	2813
Feb-II	Week 3650	2788
Feb-III	Week 3655	2800
Feb-IV	Week 3713	2775
Mar-I	Week 3672	2715

(c) Even so, Government has taken a number of measures to control increase in the prices of these commodities. Some of the measures are :-

(i) With effect from 30.11.1999, import duty on refined oil has been raised from 16.5% to 27.5%.

(ii) Import of crude oil has been subject to actual user condition. The implication is that the importers not complying with the requirement of the actual user condition will have to pay custom duty at peak rate of 38.5%.

(iii) Special additional duty @ 4% has also been imposed on import of refined oil and import of crude oils by other than actual users.

(iv) The High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary has been constituted. The Board monitors the availability and prices of essential commodities including edible oils on weekly basis and takes appropriate corrective action.